

Applic. No.: 10/667,720
Response Dated June 7, 2007
Reply to Office communication of May 25, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by Volk (US 6,457,095 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 4 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Komura et al. (US 6,216,232 B1) in view of Volk under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 8 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-9 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Douglas et al. (US 6,609,193 B1) in view of Volk under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

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Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a program-controlled unit including an instruction execution pipeline having a plurality of pipeline stages;

said program-controlled unit configured for executing pipeline instructions instructing said program-controlled unit to stop an individual one of said plurality of pipeline stages, more than one of said plurality of pipeline stages, or all of said plurality of pipeline stages without creating any conditions for which one pipeline stage, a plurality pipeline stages, or all pipeline stages are stopped; and

the pipeline instructions stipulating which particular one of said plurality of pipeline stages or which particular ones of said plurality of pipeline stages should be stopped.

Volk

Volk discloses a method and apparatus for exiting a dynamic random access memory from a low power state (NAP or PDN state). However, the pipelines operations in Volk refer to memory accesses, not pipeline stages for executing instructions in the sense of the invention of the instant application.

Also, Volk discloses "orderly shutdown," which does not require any condition or stipulation because it basically

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means that all the pipelined operations will be shutdown in sequence.

Clearly, Volk does not show "a program-controlled unit including an instruction execution pipeline having a plurality of pipeline stages; said program-controlled unit configured for executing pipeline instructions instructing said program-controlled unit to stop an individual one of said plurality of pipeline stages, more than one of said plurality of pipeline stages, or all of said plurality of pipeline stages without creating any conditions for which one pipeline stage, a plurality pipeline stages, or all pipeline stages are stopped; and the pipeline instructions stipulating which particular one of said plurality of pipeline stages or which particular ones of said plurality of pipeline stages should be stopped," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Komura et al. in view of Volk

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Komura et al. do not show stopping the pipeline stages without creating any condition for the pipeline stages to stop (see item 7 on page 4 of the Office action). However, the Examiner has stated that Volk taught that a schedule may stop a normal pipeline stage and it thus would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

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art to use Volk in Komura et al. for stopping the pipeline stage without condition.

As already discussed above, Volk discloses a method and apparatus for exiting a dynamic random access memory from a low power state (NAP or PDN state). However, the pipelines operations in Volk refer to memory accesses, not pipeline stages for executing instructions in the sense of the invention of the instant application.

Also, Volk discloses "orderly shutdown," which does not require any condition or stipulation because it basically means that all the pipelined operations will be shutdown in sequence.

Therefore, Komura et al. in view of Volk do not disclose stopping the pipeline stages without creating any condition.

Douglas et al. in view of Volk

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Douglas et al. do not show stopping the pipeline stages without creating any condition for the pipeline stages to stop (see item 10 on page 5 of the Office action). However, the Examiner has stated that Volk taught that a schedule may stop a normal pipeline stage and it thus would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

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art to use Volk in Komura et al. or Douglas et al. for stopping the pipeline stage without condition.

As already discussed above, Volk discloses a method and apparatus for exiting a dynamic random access memory from a low power state (NAP or PDN state). However, the pipelines operations in Volk refer to memory accesses, not pipeline stages for executing instructions in the sense of the invention of the instant application.

Also, Volk discloses "orderly shutdown," which does not require any condition or stipulation because it basically means that all the pipelined operations will be shutdown in sequence.

Therefore, Douglas et al. in view of Volk do not disclose stopping the pipeline stages without creating any condition.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

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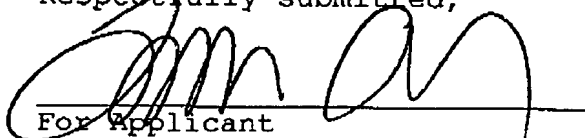
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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

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